

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

What does the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program do?

The EAA program provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. These adverse economic impacts may result from a steep decline in manufacturing employment following a plant closure, changing trade patterns, catastrophic natural disaster, a military base closure, or environmental changes and regulations.

Who may benefit from EAA and what will such funding do to promote economic development?

The EAA program can assist state and local entities in responding to a wide range of economic challenges through:

- **Strategy Grants** to support the development, updating or refinement of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- **Implementation Grants** to support the execution of activities identified in a CEDS, such as infrastructure improvements, including site acquisition, site preparation, construction, rehabilitation and equipping of facilities. Specific activities may be funded as separate investments or as multiple elements of a single investment.

Why is it advantageous to apply for EAA funding?

The EAA program is EDA's most flexible program. Under the EAA program, EDA can fund market and environmental studies, planning or construction grants, and capitalize or recapitalize revolving loan funds (RLFs) to help provide small businesses with the capital they need to grow.

What criteria are used in determining which projects receive EAA grants?

- The ability of the proposed project to realistically achieve the desired results and catalyze additional resources;
- The ability of a project to start quickly and create jobs faster;
- The extent to which the project will enable the community/region to become more diversified and more economically prosperous;
- The relative economic distress of the region;
- The applicant's performance under previous Federal financial assistance awards, including whether the grantee submitted required performance reports and data;
- The comparative feasibility of the applicant to achieve the outcomes identified in the application;

What is an example of a successful EAA project?

For examples of successful EDA projects, visit <http://www.eda.gov/annualreports/fy2012/>

How do I get more information on how to apply?

The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) is available at www.eda.gov/ffo.htm. To discuss any project proposals in further detail, contact your EDA Regional Office.

